vereye ranges into that State also. Naturalists travelling along the overland road should look out for the species if they have opportunities of working the country between the road and the
coast.

On the eastern side of the Great Australian Bight the Grey-backed Silvereye (Z. lateralis) was recorded as far west as Ced-una by C. Sullivan (S. Aust. Ornith., 9, 1928: 164-169). It would be of value, likewise, to obtain evidence of possible further west¬ ward occurrence. Collection of specimens at the extremities of the ranges of both forms might, perhaps, produce evidence wheth¬ er any hybridisation has taken place between these distinctive forms. Some recent ornithologists have lumped the two forms into one species, for which the name lateralis would have priority. I would subscribe to this view.

—JULIAN FORD, Lynwood.

Bird Observations from Dirk Hartog Island.—Three species
of birds, previously unrecorded from Dirk Hartog Island, were noted during a visit to the island in early September, 1967.

A pair of Grey Butcher-birds (Cracticus torquatus) were
found resident in a thicket of large Minilya Rose bushes (Diplo-laena) near a wind pump and troughs about three miles north¬ east of Mystery Beach.

Both other species were found on a saline pond behind the foredunes on the east coast of the island, about four miles north of Sandy Point. A party of eleven White-headed Stilt (Himanto-yus himantopus) were observed feeding in the shallow water. A flock of eight Mountain Duck (Tadorna tadornoides) was seen resting on a sand spit at the pond, and later they flew out to rest on the adjacent beach. This locality lies 70 miles north-west of
the usual limit of the Mountain Duck’s range at Hamelin Pool
(Serventy and Whittell, Birds' of Western Australia, 1967).

—L. E. SEDGWICK, South Perth.

Distribution of the Masked Owl in Western Australia—G. F. Mees (W. Aust. Nat., 8, 1963: 166-9; ZooZ, Verb., Leiden, No. 65, 1965: 1-62) gives the distribution of Tyto n. novae-hollandiae in Western Australia as the lower South-West north to a line joining Perth—Yealering—Albany and the Nullarbor Plain east of Cockle-biddy. He also refers to a single specimen (labelled Yandil Sta¬ tion near Wiluna, August 1924, in the Western Australian Museum) from outside of these range limits. It is suggested, however, that this specimen may have been registered according to the address of its donor instead of its true locality which was possibly some¬ where in the South-West. Some new and until now unpublished records point to the fact that the problematical specimen did come from Yandil Station.

K. G. Buller has kindly allowed me to study his diaries on the Canning Stock Route which were compiled while he was a member of two expeditions carried out in 1942 and 1943 by the Public Works Department. In his 1942 diary Buller mentions that he obtained a good view of a Masked Owl at Well 5 on July 3, and collected a specimen at Well 17 in Killagurra Gorge on the night of September 14. The specimen was subsequently placed in the collection of Mr Hugh Wilson who was with Buller
at the time but unfortunately Wilson’s entire collection has
since been destroyed by insect pests.

In August 1964, I. C. Carnaby (pers. comm.) flushed a Mask
ed Owl from a hollow of a Cue York Gum (Eucalyptus striati-calyx) at Golden Grove, 30 miles south-east of Yalgoo on the Yal-

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